

Letters to the Editor
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9/10/91

Roger Heusser's letter (9/10/91) is a classic case of misrepresenting to contrive anti-Semitism and Israel bashing.

He pretends to be defending Roy Meachum's column, offers no proof at all, including that "Meachum did not lie," and says not a single word that addresses, leave alone refutes my oped page article, and misuses ^{his} supposed defense for what is 100 percent non-responsive to what I actually wrote: that the primary and unquestionable obligation for preparing a defense of our Marine barracks near Beirut was that of their commander. Nothing is more basic in the military. If the commander had not failed to meet his primary obligation, for which he needed no information from anyone else, we'd not have sustained that great tragedy.

While whether or not any Israelis had a "advanced (sic) knowledge of the truck bomb" is not relevant, as anyone who has ever served in the military knows, I challenge Mr. Heusser to present his allegedly "documented" proof of this and of what I believe is one of several propaganda rather than factual statements, that Israel "did not tell the U.S. the location of William Buckley, a U.S. citizen held hostage in Lebanon, even though Israel was officially asked about it by the U.S. Government.... Later Buckley was tortured and killed. Why should the Israeli government withhold the facts?"

William Buckley was the CIA's station chief in Beirut. I believe that not a single word ^{Mr. Heusser says} ~~he said~~ about this irrelevancy is true and I call upon him to prove ^{it} proof of this, too.

There is no reason to believe that anyone knew where Buckley or others taken hostage were held. There is every reason to believe that tortures began as soon as he was captured, to obtain those secrets he had that his captors wanted very much, not "later."

In misusing a pretend response to what I wrote to contrive what I believe is vicious anti-Semitic propaganda, representing that Jews deliberately arranged for those 200 Marines and Buckley to be killed, Mr. Heusser raises the question, does he lie?

If he cannot produce the documentation he says he has, from authentic, reliable sources, not pro-Arab or other extremist propaganda, then it will be apparent that Mr.

Heusser
 (has) lied and like Meachum, writes what he really either knows nothing about or has reason to believe is not in accord with the available facts.

Mr. Heusser did say that what he says is "documented." If he fails to produce real rather than propaganda support for his libels, then he owes the papers and their readers a public apology

And he makes it apparent that he, too, is a hate-monger.

Harold Weisberg



9/10/91
**Meachum did not lie
 in column on Israel**

This is a response to Harold Weisberg's article of August 16, which chastized Roy Meachum as a hate monger. Meachum did not lie in his Aug. 9 article. It is true that the U.S. provides roughly \$4 billion per year to aid Israel. This amounts to about \$1,000 per every Israeli citizen. It is documented that Israeli government officials had advanced knowledge of the truck bomb that killed over 200 marines in Beirut, Lebanon, but did not tell the U.S. commander. Neither did the Israeli government warn of their pulling out of the high ground. They did not tell the U.S. the location of William Buckley, a U.S. citizen held hostage in Lebanon, even though Israel was officially asked about it by the U.S. government under direction of President Reagan. Later Buckley was tortured and killed.

Why would the Israeli government withhold the facts? Perhaps they simply wanted to get the U.S. forces out of Lebanon so they could have their own way. It is strange that the Israeli government would not assist the U.S. by providing painfully important information that could have saved the lives of U.S. hostages or the marines in Beirut.

ROGER HEUSSER
 Frederick